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Rustin Appearance Caused Hoover To Nix FBI Part

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has disclosed that he cancelled the engagement of a FBI speaker at the University of Maryland's recent law enforcement institute after learning that Negro integration leader Bayard Rustin was scheduled to appear on the same program.

In a letter to a Lynchburg resident, Hoover also made it clear that the FBI had no part in sponsoring the Law Enforement Institute held last week on the university campus at College Park, Md.

Hoover did not explain in his letter why he opposed having a FBI speaker on the same program with Rustin.

However, his letter was in reply to one asking him to explain how Rustin, with "a police criminal record", was selected to speak on a program "sponsored in part by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Rustin, a director of the 1963 March on Washington, is a former member of the Young Communist League, served a federal prison sentence for refusing to serve in the armed forces during World War II and served a jail sentence for being convicted on morals charges in 1953.

Hoover, who said he had no objection to his letter being made public, wrote:

"With respect to your inquiry as to how Bayard Rustin was selected as a program speaker on a program sponsored in part by the FBI, I assure you that it was not sponsored by this bureau. When I learned of his proposed appearance, I cancelled the engagement of the FBI speaker."

The Lynchburg resident, who released Hooer's letter to the press, asked that his name not be used. Hoover's letter was dated Oct. 15.

Rustin's proposed appearance at the University of Maryland set off a controversy with persons protesting that he should not be permitted to appear on the campus.

When Rustin refused to sign a loyalty oath sent him by the university, Gov. J. Millard Tawes of Maryland ordered State Police inestigation of Rustin's background. He turned over the results to university officials who decided to let Rustin speak anyway.

However, the public and press were barred from the two-day institute which is a training school for Maryland law enforcement officers.

It was explained at the time that Rustin was invited to speak to the law enforcement officers because of his experience in directing racial demonstrations.